

REMARKS**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 15-17 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chang et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,894,437). Claims 1-8, 11, 15-17 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tedrow et al.* (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002-0085423). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 11, 15, and 38 have been amended to more clearly claim the subject matter of Applicant's invention. Claims 6 – 8 have been amended to depend from claim 1 since claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice.

Both *Chang et al.* and *Tedrow et al.* show global bit lines that are coupled to separate local bit lines. Neither *Chang et al.* nor *Tedrow et al.* teach or suggest Applicant's invention as claimed in the amended claims of a global bit line that is coupled to a plurality of non-adjacent local bit lines. Each local bit line of *Chang et al.* and *Tedrow et al.* are coupled to separate, adjacent global bit lines.

Allowable Subject Matter

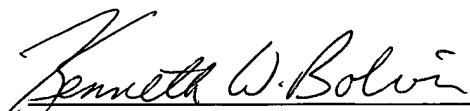
The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18 contain allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. New claims 55 – 59 have been added to contain this subject matter. Claim 55 is a combination of the subject matter of claim 9 and its base claim 5. Claim 56 is a combination of the subject matter of claim 10 and its base claim 5 including intervening claim 9. Claim 57 is a combination of the subject matter of claim 12 and its base claim 11. Claim 58 is a combination of the subject matter of claim 14 and its base claim 11. Claim 59 is a combination of the subject matter of claim 18 and its base claim 15. Therefore, claims 9, 10, 12, 14, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice as being redundant.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the present claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow these claims. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2211. No new matter has been added by this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

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